

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, In September 1840, Reverend Stephen Return Riggs crossed the Missouri River in a bull boat and preached a sermon to a camp of Tetons on the outskirts of the Fort Pierre Chouteau Trading Post, the first sermon preached to Native Americans in their language in the region; and,

Whereas, In 1871, Reverend Thomas Riggs, son of Stephen Riggs, returned to the region to establish churches which later became the Dakota Conference, led by Lakota and Dakota pastors who held services in their language; and,

Whereas, On November 28, 1880, eight people organized, what is now, the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Pierre, South Dakota, and in 1907, the church was moved to its present location; and,

Whereas, On New Year's Day 1933, the current church building was dedicated; and,

Whereas, In 1940, the centennial of Stephen Return Riggs' sermon was celebrated, and the church's chancel window depicting the event; and,

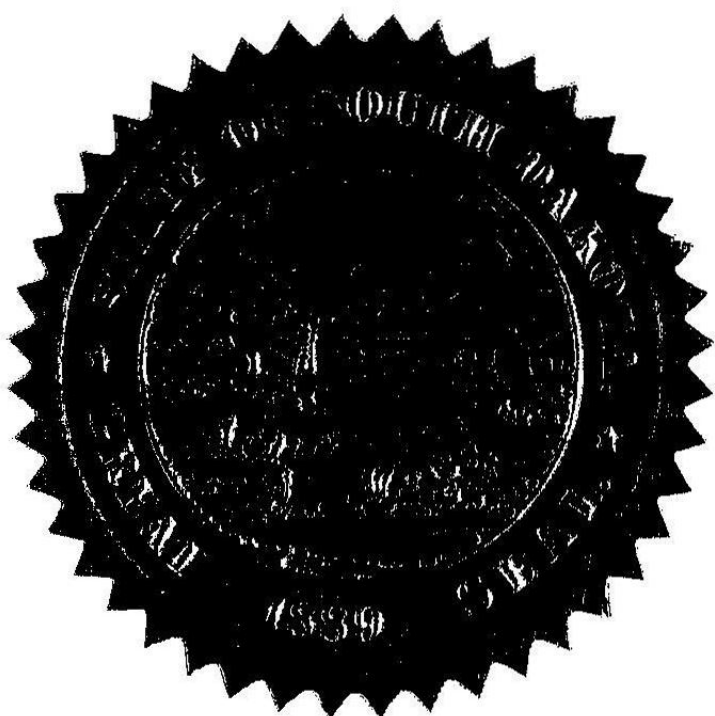
Whereas, The First Congregational United Church of Christ will celebrate its 135th Anniversary, rededicating itself to serving faithfully as Christ's disciples and continuing the work begun 175 years ago to elevate and empower all people in the Holy Spirit:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 18, 2015, as

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

135TH ANNIVERSARY DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State